UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE AND FEE(S) DUE

7590 12/29/2009	

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Post Office Box 34385
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EXAMINER
NILFOROUSH, MOHAMMAD A

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
3685	

DATE MAILED: 12/29/2009

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/532,880	04/28/2005	Giancarlo Tonino	69179-237339	8996

TITLE OF INVENTION: DISTRIBUTED SYSTEM FOR ISSUING OFFICIAL STAMPS AND/OR TITLES COMPRISING A PLURALITY OF SMART CARDS

APPLN. TYPE	SMALL ENTITY	ISSUE FEE DUE	PUBLICATION FEE DUE	PREV. PAID ISSUE FEE	TOTAL FEE(S) DUE	DATE DUE
nonprovisional	NO	$1510	$300	$0	$1810	03/29/2010

THE APPLICATION IDENTIFIED ABOVE HAS BEEN EXAMINED AND IS ALLOWED FOR ISSUANCE AS A PATENT. PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS CLOSED. THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS. THIS APPLICATION IS SUBJECT TO WITHDRAWAL FROM ISSUE AT THE INITIATIVE OF THE OFFICE OR UPON PETITION BY THE APPLICANT. SEE 37 CFR 1.313 AND MPEP 1308.

THE ISSUE FEE AND PUBLICATION FEE (IF REQUIRED) MUST BE PAID WITHIN THREE MONTHS FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS NOTICE OR THIS APPLICATION SHALL BE REGARDED AS ABANDONED. THIS STATUTORY PERIOD CANNOT BE EXTENDED. SEE 35 U.S.C. 151. THE ISSUE FEE DUE INDICATED ABOVE DOES NOT REFLECT A CREDIT FOR ANY PREVIOUSLY PAID ISSUE FEE IN THIS APPLICATION. IF AN ISSUE FEE HAS PREVIOUSLY BEEN PAID IN THIS APPLICATION (AS SHOWN ABOVE), THE RETURN OF PART B OF THIS FORM WILL BE CONSIDERED A REQUEST TO REAPPLY THE PREVIOUSLY PAID ISSUE FEE TOWARD THE ISSUE FEE NOW DUE.

HOW TO REPLY TO THIS NOTICE:

I. Review the SMALL ENTITY status shown above.

If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as YES, verify your current SMALL ENTITY status:

A. If the status is the same, pay the TOTAL FEE(S) DUE shown above.

B. If the status above is to be removed, check box 5b on Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal and pay the PUBLICATION FEE (if required) and twice the amount of the ISSUE FEE shown above, or

If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as NO:

A. Pay TOTAL FEE(S) DUE shown above, or

B. If applicant claimed SMALL ENTITY status before, or is now claiming SMALL ENTITY status, check box 5a on Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal and pay the PUBLICATION FEE (if required) and 1/2 the ISSUE FEE shown above.

II. PART B - FEE(S) TRANSMITTAL, or its equivalent, must be completed and returned to the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) with your ISSUE FEE and PUBLICATION FEE (if required). If you are charging the fee(s) to your deposit account, section "4b" of Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal should be completed and an extra copy of the form should be submitted. If an equivalent of Part B is filed, a request to reapply a previously paid issue fee must be clearly made, and delays in processing may occur due to the difficulty in recognizing the paper as an equivalent of Part B.

III. All communications regarding this application must give the application number. Please direct all communications prior to issuance to Mail Stop ISSUE FEE unless advised to the contrary.

IMPORTANT REMINDER: Utility patents issuing on applications filed on or after Dec. 12, 1980 may require payment of maintenance fees. It is patentee's responsibility to ensure timely payment of maintenance fees when due.

PTOL-85 (Rev. 08/07) Approved for use through 08/31/2010.

PART B - FEE(S) TRANSMITTAL

Complete and send this form, together with applicable fee(s), to: <u>Mail</u> Mail Stop ISSUE FEE
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INSTRUCTIONS: This form should be used for transmitting the ISSUE FEE and PUBLICATION FEE (if required). Blocks 1 through 5 should be completed where appropriate. All further correspondence including the Patent, advance orders and notification of maintenance fees will be mailed to the current correspondence address as indicated unless corrected below or directed otherwise in Block 1, by (a) specifying a new correspondence address; and/or (b) indicating a separate "FEE ADDRESS" for maintenance fee notifications.

CURRENT CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS (Note: Use Block 1 for any change of address)

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I hereby certify that this Fee(s) Transmittal is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage for first class mail in an envelope addressed to the Mail Stop ISSUE FEE address above, or being facsimile transmitted to the USPTO (571) 273-2885, on the date indicated below.

_____ (Depositor's name)

_____ (Signature)

_____ (Date)

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/532,880	04/28/2005	Giancarlo Tonino	69179-237339	8996

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APPLN. TYPE	SMALL ENTITY	ISSUE FEE DUE	PUBLICATION FEE DUE	PREV. PAID ISSUE FEE	TOTAL FEE(S) DUE	DATE DUE
nonprovisional	NO	$1510	$300	$0	$1810	03/29/2010

EXAMINER	ART UNIT	CLASS-SUBCLASS
NILFOROUSH, MOHAMMAD A	3685	705-060000

1. Change of correspondence address or indication of "Fee Address" (37 CFR 1.363).

❑ Change of correspondence address (or Change of Correspondence Address form PTO/SB/122) attached.

❑ "Fee Address" indication (or "Fee Address" Indication form PTO/SB/47; Rev 03-02 or more recent) attached. **Use of a Customer Number is required.**

2. For printing on the patent front page, list

(1) the names of up to 3 registered patent attorneys or agents OR, alternatively,

(2) the name of a single firm (having as a member a registered attorney or agent) and the names of up to 2 registered patent attorneys or agents. If no name is listed, no name will be printed.

1 _____

2 _____

3 _____

3. ASSIGNEE NAME AND RESIDENCE DATA TO BE PRINTED ON THE PATENT (print or type)

PLEASE NOTE: Unless an assignee is identified below, no assignee data will appear on the patent. If an assignee is identified below, the document has been filed for recordation as set forth in 37 CFR 3.11. Completion of this form is NOT a substitute for filing an assignment.

(A) NAME OF ASSIGNEE   (B) RESIDENCE: (CITY and STATE OR COUNTRY)

Please check the appropriate assignee category or categories (will not be printed on the patent) : ❑ Individual ❑ Corporation or other private group entity ❑ Government

4a. The following fee(s) are submitted:

❑ Issue Fee

❑ Publication Fee (No small entity discount permitted)

❑ Advance Order - # of Copies _____

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❑ A check is enclosed.

❑ Payment by credit card. Form PTO-2038 is attached.

❑ The Director is hereby authorized to charge the required fee(s), any deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account Number _____ (enclose an extra copy of this form).

5. Change in Entity Status (from status indicated above)

❑ a. Applicant claims SMALL ENTITY status. See 37 CFR 1.27.   ❑ b. Applicant is no longer claiming SMALL ENTITY status. See 37 CFR 1.27(g)(2).

NOTE: The Issue Fee and Publication Fee (if required) will not be accepted from anyone other than the applicant; a registered attorney or agent; or the assignee or other party in interest as shown by the records of the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

Authorized Signature _____   Date _____

Typed or printed name _____   Registration No. _____

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.311. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450.

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UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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3685	

DATE MAILED: 12/29/2009

Determination of Patent Term Adjustment under 35 U.S.C. 154 (b)
(application filed on or after May 29, 2000)

The Patent Term Adjustment to date is 702 day(s). If the issue fee is paid on the date that is three months after the mailing date of this notice and the patent issues on the Tuesday before the date that is 28 weeks (six and a half months) after the mailing date of this notice, the Patent Term Adjustment will be 702 day(s).

If a Continued Prosecution Application (CPA) was filed in the above-identified application, the filing date that determines Patent Term Adjustment is the filing date of the most recent CPA.

Applicant will be able to obtain more detailed information by accessing the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) WEB site (http://pair.uspto.gov).

Any questions regarding the Patent Term Extension or Adjustment determination should be directed to the Office of Patent Legal Administration at (571)-272-7702. Questions relating to issue and publication fee payments should be directed to the Customer Service Center of the Office of Patent Publication at 1-(888)-786-0101 or (571)-272-4200.

PTOL-85 (Rev. 08/07) Approved for use through 08/31/2010.

	Application No.	Applicant(s)
Notice of Allowability	10/532,880	TONINO ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Mohammad A. Nilforoush	3685	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to *Interview with Mr. Steven J. Shwarz*.

2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are *18,20 and 22-29*.

3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

    a) ☒ All   b) ☐ Some*   c) ☐ None   of the:

        1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

        2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____ .

        3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

    * Certified copies not received: _____ .

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.

5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.

    (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached

        1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____ .

    (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____ .

    Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).

6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2. ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____

4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material

5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application

6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____ .

7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment

8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance

9. ☐ Other _____ .

/M. A. N./
Examiner, Art Unit 3685

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1.   An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes

and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided

by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be

submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview

with Mr. Steven Schwarz (Reg. No. 47,070) on December 14, 2009.

2.   The application has been amended as follows:

18. A distributed system for issuing printed objects, comprising:

        a central control unit;

        a plurality of local terminals ~~that issue~~ for issuing the printed objects, the

local terminals located at different geographic locations, wherein each local

terminal ~~defines unequivocally a fingerprint~~ includes a memory storing a clear

code and a protected code;

        a communication and control network ~~through which the central control~~

~~unit controls the local terminals~~;

        a plurality of smart cards assigned to operators of the local terminals to

activate and enable the local terminals to issue the printed objects, wherein each

smart card includes a secret key and a personal identification code;

            wherein each of said plurality of local terminals includes a memory storing

an initialization program that ~~executes during an initialization stage following~~

~~insertion of a given smart card in a corresponding given local terminal, wherein~~

~~the initialization program is adapted to~~ when executed causes a terminal of the

plurality of terminals to perform the steps of:

generating a unique fingerprint of the local terminal by combining

the clear code and the protected code,

sending, to a smart card of the plurality of smart cards inserted in

the local terminal, the generated fingerprint of the local terminal,

generating a signed fingerprint by signing ~~sign~~ the fingerprint of the

~~given~~ local terminal with the secret key of the ~~given~~ smart card ~~to generate~~

~~a signed fingerprint~~,

replacing the personal identification code in the smart card with a

new personal identification code in the memory of the smart card.

~~send~~ sending the signed fingerprint to the central control unit. [[,]]

~~establish a bi-unequivocable relationship between the given local~~

~~terminal and the given smart card, whereby following the initialization~~

~~stage, the given smart card is enabled to be used exclusively with the~~

~~given local terminal, and the given local terminal is enabled for issuing the~~

~~printed objects exclusively after recognizing the given smart card.~~

19. The system of claim 18, wherein the fingerprint comprises an "in the clear

code" and an invisible or protected code.

20. The system of claim 19, wherein the initialization program is adapted to execute following a customization step that associates the given smart card with a given account.

~~20.~~ 21. The system of claim 19, wherein each local terminal includes a memory in which the "in the clear code" and the invisible or protected code are recorded prior to execution of the initialization program.

~~21.~~ 22. The system of claim 19, wherein the initialization program is adapted to record the given smart card on the central control unit and enable the smart card for use with the given local terminal.

~~22.~~ 23. The system of claim 19, wherein each smart card includes a data string that stores a personal identification code, and the initialization program is adapted to modify the data string on the given smart card to inhibit the personal identification code from being available to the operator of the given smart card.

~~23.~~ 24. The system of claim 19, wherein the initialization program includes a double, asymmetrical key algorithm that signs the fingerprint of the given local terminal.

24. 25. The system of claim 18, wherein the initialization program comprises a

protected, non-modifiable, machine program installed on each of the local

terminals.

25. 26. The system of claim 18, wherein the initialization program is adapted to

execute upon insertion of an uninitialized smart card into one of the local

terminals.

26. 27. The system of claim 18, wherein the printed objects are selected from the

group consisting of postage stamps, revenue stamps, stamped titles, and labels.

27. 28. The system of claim 18, wherein the given local terminal and the given

smart card are adapted to perform local functions concerning issuance of the

printed objects autonomously of the central control unit, and further wherein the

given local terminal is adapted to transfer data relating to the local functions to

the central control unit.

28. 29. A method for issuing printed objects, comprising:

        providing a central control unit;

        providing a plurality of local terminals that issue for issuing the printed

objects, the local terminals located at different geographic locations, wherein

each local terminal ~~defines unequivocally a fingerprint~~ <u>includes a memory storing</u>

<u>a clear code and a protected code</u>;

providing a communication and control network ~~through which the central~~

~~control unit controls the local terminals~~;

providing a plurality of smart cards assigned to operators of the local

terminals to activate and enable the local terminals to issue the printed objects,

wherein each smart card includes a secret key <u>and a personal identification</u>

<u>code</u>; and

initializing a ~~given~~ smart card <u>of the plurality of smart cards</u> for use with a

corresponding ~~given~~ local terminal following insertion of the ~~given~~ smart card in

the ~~given~~ local terminal, wherein the initializing step comprises:

<u>generating, by the local terminal, a unique fingerprint by combining</u>

<u>the clear code and the protected code,</u>

<u>sending by the local terminal to the smart card inserted in the local</u>

<u>terminal, the generated fingerprint of the local terminal,</u>

<u>generating, by the smart card, a signed fingerprint by</u> signing the

fingerprint of the ~~given~~ local terminal with the secret key of the ~~given~~ smart

card ~~to generate a signed fingerprint,~~

<u>replacing, by the local terminal, the personal identification code in</u>

<u>the smart card with a new personal identification code in the memory of</u>

<u>the smart card, and</u>

sending, <u>by the smart card,</u> the ~~signed~~ fingerprint <u>signed by the</u> <u>smart card</u> to the central control unit~~, and~~<u>.</u>

~~establishing a bi-unequivocable relationship between the given~~ ~~local terminal and the given smart card, whereby following the initializing~~ ~~step, the given smart card is enabled to be used exclusively with the given~~ ~~local terminal, and the given local terminal is enabled for issuing the~~ ~~printed objects exclusively after recognizing the given smart card.~~

~~29.~~ <u>30.</u> The method of claim 28, further comprising obtaining the fingerprint by recording an "in the clear" code and an invisible code or protected code in a memory of the given local terminal.

3.   Claims **19**, **21**, **23**, and **30** are **cancelled**.

4.   The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

5.   The present invention is directed to a method and system for issuing printed objects from one of a plurality of terminals that involves tying a one of a plurality of smart cards assigned to operators of the terminals to a particular terminal such that the particular terminal can only be used with that smart card and the smart card can only be used with that particular terminal. This is achieved by running an initialization program in the terminal when the smart card is entered that generates a unique fingerprint of the local terminal by combining a clear code and a protected code stored in the memory of terminal, and then sends this fingerprint to the smartcard, which signs the fingerprint

with it's secret key. The local terminal also replaces a personal identification code

stored in the memory of the smart card with a new personal identification code, and

then the signed fingerprint is sent to a central control unit.

6.   The use of smart cards storing PIN numbers to operate terminals for purchasing

stamps is well-known (See, for example, Wright. et al. **1:17-2:62**).

7.   The closest prior art of Wright, et al. discloses the use of a smart card that stores

a balance to operate a terminal for dispensing postage as well as using a handshake

recognition procedure between the card and terminal before proceeding with a

transaction (Wright **Abstract**; **9:45-10:52**). Wright further discloses initializing a card at

a terminal by allowing a user to select a PIN and storing a secret key of the terminal on

the card for encrypting data transmitted to the terminal (Wright **6:40-63**). The stored key

allows the card to only be used with terminals that belong to an issuer that uses the

same key (Wright **8:36-47**). A card may also store a list of authorized terminals so that

the card may only be used with those terminals (Wright **9:9-12**), and a terminal may

store a list of authorized cards such that only those cards can be used with the terminal

(Wright **9:12-16**).

8.   However, with regard to claims 18 and 29, the prior art does not disclose, singly

or in combination, "generating, by the local terminal, a unique fingerprint by combining

the clear code and the protected code, sending by the local terminal to the smart card

inserted in the local terminal, the generated fingerprint of the local terminal, generating,

by the smart card, a signed fingerprint by signing the fingerprint of the local terminal with

the secret key of the smart card, replacing the personal identification code in the smart

card with a new personal identification code in the memory of the smart card, and

sending the fingerprint <u>signed by the smart card</u> to the central control unit."

9.   Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later

than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably

accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on

Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

        Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the

examiner should be directed to Mohammad A. Nilforoush whose telephone number is

(571)270-5298. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday 10 am - 6

pm.

        If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's

supervisor, Calvin Hewitt can be reached on (571)272-6709. The fax phone number for

the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the

Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for

published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR.

Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only.

For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should

you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic

Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a

USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information

system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/M. A. N./
Examiner, Art Unit 3685

/Calvin L Hewitt II/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3685